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further conclusion that the present distribution of the litoral fauna was completed before the Amazon bore its present geographical relations. If it were otherwise the vast mass of the river waters would have formed an insurmountable barrier to the southward extension of marine forms living in shallow water.

The main body of the paper consists in an anatomical study of two species of *Tethys* and the new species above referred to. The investigation is carried out in great detail, the most noticeable feature in the genus *Tethys* being the determination of nerves issuing from the pleural ganglion and anastomosing with pedal nerves in each case, contrary to the results announced by some investigators from studies of Mediterranean species of *Tethys*. Excellent figures are given of the anatomy, especially of the nervous and alimentary tracts, and comparisons instituted with the results of other investigators. On the whole the paper is creditable to the author and to the university under whose auspices it appears, and will prove, we hope, the forerunner of other contributions to a subject which has hardly received hitherto its proper meed of attention.

WM. H. DALL

SUMMARIES OF FOUR OPINIONS (6, 7, 8, 12)
BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION
ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

THE following summaries of recent opinions by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature are published for the information of persons interested in the points in question. It is expected that the full details of the arguments will be published later in connection with certain other cases now under consideration. These summaries do not give the reservations made by certain commissioners, but these reservations will be presented in the final publication.

6. Genus *A* Linnaeus, 1758, with two species *Ab* and *Ac*.—When a later author divides the genus *A*, species *Ab* and *Ac*, leaving genus *A*, only species *Ab*, and genus *C*, monotypic, with species *Cc*:

The second author is to be construed as having fixed the type of the genus *A*. [See Article 30.]

Vote: Affirmative 14; negative 0; not voting 1.

7. The interpretation of the expression "n. g., n. sp." under Article 30 (a).—The expression "n. g., n. sp." used in publication of a new genus for which no other species is otherwise designated as genotype, is to be accepted as designation under Article 30 (a).

Vote: Affirmative 9; negative 4; not voting 2. [As the vote on this case is not unanimous, the point in question may possibly come up for consideration at the next meeting of the commission.]

8. The retention of *ii* or *i* in specific patronymic names, under Article 14 (c) and Article 19.—Specific patronymics originally published as ending in *ii* (as *schranksii*, *ebbesbornii*) are, according to Article 19, to be retained in their original form, despite the provision of Article 14 (c) which provides that they should have been formed with only one *i*.

Vote: Affirmative 11; negative 2; not voting 2. [As the vote on this case is not unanimous, the point in question may possibly come up for discussion at the next meeting of the commission.]

12. *Stephanoceros fimbriatus* (Goldfuss, 1820) vs. *S. eichhornii* Ehrenberg, 1832.—The generic name *Stephanoceros*, 1832, is to be used in preference to *Coronella*, 1820 (pre-occupied, 1768); the specific name *fimbriatus*, 1820, takes precedence over *eichhornii*, 1832, which is admittedly (Ehrenberg, 1832b, 125, and 1838a, 400–401) *fimbriatus*, 1820, renamed. Ehrenberg was right in rejecting *Coronella*, 1820, but in error in rejecting *fimbriatus*, 1820; no reason is apparent for perpetuating his error.

Vote: Affirmative 14; negative 0; not voting 1.

C. W. STILES,
Secretary of Commission

SPECIAL ARTICLES

CARBON DIOXIDE AS A FACTOR IN HEART BEAT

CARBON dioxide when distributed uniformly in the blood in large quantities exerts a definite injurious effect on the heart. In the normal circulation, however, the right heart